

DEER HUNTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: 2020 DEER HUNTING RULES

CONTENTS

What to Know for 2020	2
Season Structure	4
Licenses and Harvest authorizations	4
Bonus antlerless harvest authorizations	9
Crossbow regulations	9
Public and private lands	11
Harvesting deer	13
Harvest registration	13
Transportation of deer	14



What to Know for 2020

- There are no major rule changes for 2020
- There are three buck-only units this year: Forest County, Marinette County (Forest Zone), and Oconto County (Forest Zone). No bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations will be available for purchase in these units.

Other Rules that are still fairly new:

- All deer must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after harvest in the DMU of kill or an adjacent unit.
- All deer registration will be completed by phone or internet, but some in-person registration stations will be available to assist hunters.
- Hunters are no longer required to:
 - print or carry deer harvest authorizations while hunting;
 - attach a carcass tag to a deer once harvested;
 - retain a deer harvest authorization with meat once the deer is registered.
- Hunters must carry proof of their license and harvest authorization(s) while hunting. Carry with you one or more of the following:
 - A paper copy;
 - A department-approved PDF displayed on a mobile device;
 - An authenticated Wisconsin driver's license; or
 - A Go Wild Conservation Card.
- The unique deer harvest authorization number is required to register your harvest. You may access the unique harvest authorization number from the paper copy of your harvest authorization, a Go Wild PDF image of your harvest authorization saved to an electronic device or the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account.
- The antlerless-only firearm Holiday Hunt (Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2021) will be offered in some Farmland Zone Deer Management Units (DMUs), including: Brown, Buffalo, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Door, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marinette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca and Waushara.
- Counties that conduct a Holiday Hunt may also offer extended archery and crossbow seasons January 4 - January 31, 2021. Bucks and antlerless deer may be harvested during this time and will be offered in the following counties: Brown, Buffalo, Crawford, Dane, Door, Eau Claire, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha.
- The December 4-day firearm antlerless-only hunt (Dec 10 – 13) will be offered statewide. No bucks may be harvested during this season with any weapon type.
- Hunters must specify the zone, DMU and land type (public or private) for each antlerless harvest authorization.
- At least one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization is included with each deer hunting license. Hunters must select their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations from a DMU that offers them, and the number of harvest authorizations offered will vary by county. These are DMU, sub-unit and land-type (public or private) specific.
- DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may offer free metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorizations, and/or \$12 metro sub-unit bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations. These are DMU, sub-unit and land-type (public or private) specific.

- Junior antlerless deer harvest authorizations are valid in any unit statewide on the land-type specified on the harvest authorization.
- Group bagging is only allowed during a firearm deer season while possessing a valid gun deer license, but not allowed on Junior antlerless deer harvest authorizations.

SEASON STRUCTURE

Q. Which seasons are offered in 2020?

A. The following seasons will occur:

- Archery and crossbow: September 12 to January 3, 2021
- Youth gun hunt: October 10 and 11
- October gun hunt for hunters with disabilities (on sponsored properties only): October 3 to 11
- November 9-day gun deer hunt: November 21 to 29
- Muzzleloader season: November 30 to December 9
- December 4-day gun antlerless-only season: December 10 to December 13
- Metro sub-units gun season: November 21 to December 9
- Metro sub-units archery and crossbow seasons: September 12 to January 31, 2021
- Antlerless-only gun Holiday Hunt (select Farmland Zone units only): December 24 to January 1, 2021
- Extended archery/crossbow seasons (select Farmland Zone units only): January 4 to 31, 2021

Q. Can hunters shoot bucks with a bow or crossbow in any DMU during the December 4-day antlerless-only deer season?

No. The December 4-day antlerless-only deer season will be held statewide, making it illegal to hunt antlered deer during this time, regardless of the weapon used. Except, Class A and C disabled permit holders and qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use their gun buck deer harvest authorizations to harvest an antlered deer statewide during any firearm deer season with any legal weapon for that firearm season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons. [TOP](#)

LICENSES AND HARVEST AUTHORIZATIONS

Q. Are back tags required in 2020?

A. No. The Legislature repealed the requirement of wearing a back tag in 2016. The DNR no longer issues back tags.

Q. What do I need to carry with me to show proof that I have a deer hunting license?

- A. Go Wild offers several options for displaying proof of licenses and deer harvest authorizations, which hunters are required to carry while hunting and display to a warden when requested. The following forms of proof are accepted:
- A paper copy;
 - A department-approved PDF displayed on a mobile device;
 - An authenticated Wisconsin driver's license; or
 - A Go Wild Conservation Card.

While the above forms of proof are acceptable, successful hunters will need the unique harvest authorization number to register their harvest. The unique harvest authorization number is not accessible to hunters relying on their Wisconsin driver's license or Go Wild Conservation Card as proof of their harvest authorization. The unique harvest authorization number may be accessed from the paper copy of the harvest authorization, a Go Wild PDF image of the harvest authorization saved to a mobile device or the My GameReg section of the hunter's Go Wild account.

Q. How many Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations (included with a hunting license) can I get?

- A. The number of Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations issued per license varies from county to county. Please see the DNR [antlerless deer harvest authorization availability webpage](#) to find out how many will be offered in each county. Get yours through Go Wild starting July 1.

Q. For DMUs that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization (included with a license), can hunters select a different land type for each harvest authorization?

- A. Yes. For example, if a DMU offers two Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations with a license, the hunter can designate one for private land and one for public land, both for private land or both for public land.

Q. For counties that offer more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization, can hunters designate a different DMU for each of these harvest authorizations?

- A. No. Multiple harvest authorizations issued cannot be split between DMUs and must all be for the same DMU. For example, Jefferson County is offering two harvest authorizations per hunter, and the hunter must take both for Jefferson County.

Q. How can hunters obtain and use metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorizations?

- A. DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may offer, at no cost, one or more metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorizations with a license, in addition to any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations offered for that DMU. DMUs containing a metro sub-unit may also offer bonus metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorizations for purchase.

Q. Can I use my metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorization or bonus metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorization in the same DMU, but outside of the metro sub-unit?

- A. No. All metro sub-unit antlerless deer harvest authorizations are only valid within metro sub-unit boundaries in the specified DMU and on the land type (public or private) of the hunter's choice.

Q. Can I use my Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization for, say, La Crosse County in the La Crosse metro sub-unit?

- A. Yes. A Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization is valid within the metro sub-unit of the DMU. It cannot be used in a metro sub-unit outside the DMU for which it is valid.

Q. How do I get a new deer harvest authorization if my original gets damaged? Is there a cost to replace it?

- A. Hunters may print a replacement harvest authorization for no charge at home or through a DNR service center, or visit a license agent to obtain a replacement for \$2.

Q. Can I print several copies of a harvest authorization for the field so I have an extra in case one gets damaged?

- A. It is no longer required that harvest authorizations be printed and carried. However, if you choose to print and carry harvest authorizations, you may not possess more than one copy of each unique harvest authorization at a time while in the field.

Q. How is the number of land type-specific bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations (public and private) determined in DMUs?

- A. [County Deer Advisory Councils](#) (CDACs) provide recommendations on how many public and private bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations should be issued in each DMU. CDACs review harvest history, anticipated hunter success, population estimates and other factors. Then they make recommendations on antlerless harvest and bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization availability to help achieve three-year county population objectives to increase, decrease or maintain the deer population in that DMU. CDACs also make recommendations on various season options such as implementation of the Holiday Hunt and an extended archery/crossbow seasons.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will be issued with the purchase of an archery or crossbow deer hunting license?

- A. Hunters will receive one bow buck deer harvest authorization valid in any unit statewide and valid for use with either archery or crossbow equipment depending on the license purchased. In addition, they may receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s), based on the DMU they hunt. At the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the DMU and land type (public or private) for which the harvest authorization will be valid. Antlerless deer harvest authorizations are not weapon-specific, and may be filled with a gun, conventional bow or crossbow during an open season, as long as the hunter has the appropriate hunting license. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will be issued with the purchase of a gun deer hunting license?

- A. Hunters will receive one gun buck deer harvest authorization valid in any DMU statewide, plus one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s), based on the DMU they hunt. At the time of purchase, the buyer must choose the DMU, land type (public or private), and weapon type for which the harvest authorization will be valid. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will be issued with the purchase of a Conservation Patron license?

- A. Conservation patron license holders will receive one bow buck deer harvest authorization that can be filled with either a conventional bow or crossbow and one gun buck deer harvest authorization. They may also receive one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s) for each license type valid for use only in the Farmland Zone DMU and land type specified at the time of purchase. Antlerless

deer harvest authorizations are not weapon-specific and can be filled with bow, crossbow or firearm during an open season. Conservation patrons may specify two different DMUs, or the same DMU twice, for their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations. They may also select different land types for each antlerless deer harvest authorization. If a hunter did not receive their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations at the time of purchase, they may print them from their Go Wild account for free at home or at a DNR Service Center. They may also select and obtain them from a license agent for a \$2 processing fee.

Q. If I plan to harvest antlerless deer in multiple DMUs or outside the Farmland Zones, will I need to buy separate harvest authorizations?

- A. Most Farmland (Zone 2) DMUs will provide antlerless deer harvest authorization(s), which must be designated for either public or private land. If a hunter would like to harvest an antlerless deer in a Forest (Zone 1) DMU, they must purchase a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization for that DMU, if available. If a hunter wants more than one antlerless deer harvest authorization in a Farmland Zone DMU, they may be able to purchase additional bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations for \$12 (residents), \$20 (non-residents) or \$5 (youth age 11 and under) at a rate of one harvest authorization per hunter, per day, until sold out.

Q. What if I hunt in a DMU that doesn't offer any Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations?

- A. In this case, hunters will have the option of purchasing a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization for the DMU and specific land type (if available).

Q. Which harvest authorizations will junior deer hunters receive?

- A. Junior deer hunters will receive one buck deer harvest authorization valid statewide and one junior antlerless deer harvest authorization valid statewide. Youth hunters under age 18 will not need to specify DMU or zone, but will need to specify land type on this antlerless deer harvest authorization.

Q. If a 17-year-old buys a junior deer hunting license, but turns 18 before or during the deer season, can they still use the statewide antlerless deer harvest authorizations they received with their junior hunting license?

- A. Yes. Because the harvest authorizations were obtained while the person was under 18 years of age, they are valid.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will Class A and C disabled permit holders receive?

- A. Class A and C disabled permit holders will receive one buck deer harvest authorization valid statewide and free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s), the same as everyone else. Class A and C disabled permit holders are authorized to harvest **one** antlerless deer with a Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization in any DMU statewide, including buck-only units, during a firearm deer season and **one** during the archery season, with the appropriate license and weapon. These harvest authorizations are only valid on the land type (public or private) specified on the harvest authorization. All other Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations issued are only valid for the designated DMU and land type specified on the harvest authorization. Class A and C disabled permit holders may use their gun buck deer harvest authorization to hunt a buck statewide during any firearm deer season, including antlerless-only seasons.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will qualified U.S. Armed Forces members receive?

- A. A U.S. Armed Forces member who exhibits proof that he/she is in active service stationed outside of this state, is on furlough or leave and is a Wisconsin resident or was a resident upon entering active service will receive one buck deer harvest authorization valid statewide and the same free Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s) as everyone else. However, qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use **one** of the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s) in any DMU statewide on the land type specified on the harvest authorization, including in buck-only DMUs, but only under the authority of a gun deer license and only during a season open to hunting deer with firearms. Qualified U.S. Armed Forces members may use their Gun Buck Deer harvest authorization during the firearm deer season, including antlerless-only firearm deer seasons, to harvest a buck with any legal weapon for that firearm season.

Q. Can Class A and C disabled or qualified military personnel on leave hunt for an antlerless deer with their buck harvest authorization?

- A. No. The law requires that the DNR provide Class A and C disabled hunters and military personnel the opportunity to hunt either sex deer statewide during any firearm deer season under the authority of their gun deer license. Their buck harvest authorization is valid only for bucks.

Q. Will active duty military service members still be offered bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations for DMUs that are sold out?

- A. Yes. We will continue to handle this as we have in the past. Residents who are in active service with the U.S. Armed Forces outside this state and on furlough or leave will still be able to purchase a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization for any DMU and land type (public or private) which has an antlerless quota, even if they are already sold out.

Q. Are antlerless deer harvest authorizations weapon-specific?

- A. No. All antlerless deer harvest authorizations may be filled with any weapon and during any open season with the appropriate license and weapon for that season.

Q. Is non-deer hunting or hunting under an agricultural deer damage shooting permit allowed on the Friday prior to the November 9-day gun deer season?

- A. Yes. The prohibition of possessing a loaded or uncased firearm on the Friday prior to the November 9-day gun deer season has been eliminated. This allows hunting with a firearm for any animal with an open season or under damage shooting permits.

Q. Why are hunters charged a \$2 fee per transaction to pick up their antlerless deer harvest authorizations at a Go Wild license agent after their deer license purchase?

- A. The \$2 fee covers payments and commissions to agents and contractors, plus a transaction fee that is set in state statute. Customers may select their Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations and print them free of charge from the customer's online Go Wild account.

[TOP](#)

BONUS ANTLERLESS HARVEST AUTHORIZATIONS

Q. When will bonus harvest authorizations go on sale?

- A. Where available, bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations will be sold starting at 10 a.m. on August 17 in the Northern Forest and Central Forest Zones, August 18 in the Central Farmland Zone and August 19 in the Southern Farmland Zone. Sales for all remaining bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations for all zones and DMUs will begin at 10 a.m. on August 20. Bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations can be purchased at a rate of one harvest authorization per customer per day until the unit is sold out or the hunting season ends. At purchase, the hunter will specify the zone, DMU and land type (public or private) in which they want their harvest authorization to be valid.

Q. How can I purchase a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization?

- A. Bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations can be purchased online at gowild.wi.gov or in person at a DNR service center or licensing agent.

Q. Are additional bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations weapon- or season-specific?

- A. No. Bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations are NOT weapon- or season-specific. They are zone, DMU and land type (public or private) specific.

Q. As in the past, can qualified farmers request one free bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization for each bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization they purchase?

- A. Yes, but this request must occur at the time of purchase of the initial bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization and it must be for the same DMU and land type as their first harvest authorization.

Q. When the bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations go on sale in August, do the prices differ between Management Zones?

- A. No. Where available, bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations are the same price, regardless of zone and DMU: \$12 each for residents, \$20 each for non-residents and \$5 each for youth age 11 and under.

[TOP](#)

CROSSBOW REGULATIONS

Q. Which license is required to hunt with a crossbow?

- A. To hunt with a crossbow during the archery/crossbow deer seasons, a hunter must purchase a crossbow-specific license. However, if the hunter wishes to use both a crossbow AND archery equipment they must purchase the crossbow or archer license and the bow/crossbow upgrade. The first license will be sold at the regular price and the upgrade costs \$3. Use of a crossbow is included with the Conservation Patron license.

Q. Which harvest authorizations will a hunter receive with a crossbow license?

- A. Hunters receive one bow buck deer harvest authorization valid in any unit statewide and one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations specific to the Farmland (Zone 2), DMU and land

type specified at purchase. Hunters may purchase a \$3 upgrade which authorizes the use of both crossbow and vertical bow to fill the bow buck deer harvest authorizations and Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization (specific to the Farmland Zone, DMU and land type specified at purchase). However, the purchase of an upgrade (or both licenses) does not come with a second set of deer harvest authorizations.

Q. If someone wants to hunt with a bow or crossbow during a firearm hunting season (including muzzleloader), do they need to purchase an archer or crossbow license in addition to their gun deer license?

A. No. Anyone who possesses a gun deer license can use any legal firearm, bow or crossbow to hunt deer with that license during any season open to hunting deer with a firearm.

Q. If someone purchases both an archer and a crossbow license, what harvest authorizations will they receive?

A. With the purchase of both licenses, hunters will receive one bow buck deer harvest authorization valid in any DMU statewide and one or more Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorizations specific to the Farmland Zone, DMU and land type specified. These harvest authorizations may be filled using either weapon. The purchase of both archer and crossbow licenses only authorizes the use of both weapons and hunters will not receive a second set of deer harvest authorizations.

Q. Can junior deer hunters hunt with a crossbow?

A. Yes, but they must purchase a crossbow-specific junior deer hunting license to use a crossbow during the crossbow deer seasons. Youth hunters do not need a crossbow license to hunt with a crossbow during a firearm deer season if the youth has a valid gun deer license.

Q. Do Conservation Patron licenses allow crossbow use?

A. Yes. A crossbow license is included with a Conservation Patron license.

Q. Can disabled hunters or hunters over the age of 65 hunt with a crossbow using a regular archer license?

A. No. All hunters wishing to hunt with a crossbow, including the disabled and those over 65 years of age, must purchase a crossbow-specific license or Conservation Patron license. Disabled hunting permits no longer authorize crossbow use. The law that formerly allowed crossbow use in these cases was repealed by the legislature in 2014.

Q. Are there specific transportation requirements relative to crossbows?

A. Crossbows that are not cocked do not need to be cased during transportation, whether it is in or on a vehicle, ATV, UTV, snowmobile or other motorized vehicle. A cocked crossbow can be placed in or on any of these vehicles and transported only if it is first unloaded (arrow/bolt removed) and the cocked crossbow is in a carrying case.

[TOP](#)

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS

- Q. What is the penalty for someone who harvests a deer in the correct zone and DMU but does not have the correct land-type specified on their harvest authorization?**
- A. The penalty would be \$222.90 plus the cost of the bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization they should have purchased for that land type (\$12 for residents or \$20 for non-residents).
- Q. If someone in a group has an antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use only on public land, will everyone else be able to participate under group hunting rules?**
- A. Yes. If the antlerless deer harvest authorization is valid for the DMU that the group is hunting (correct zone, DMU and land-type, and only during a firearm deer season) and if all group members comply with group deer hunting requirements, anyone in the group may participate in group hunting and fill an unused antlerless deer harvest authorization; however, group bagging is not allowed under the junior antlerless deer harvest authorization. All members of the group must be using firearms and each must hold a regular gun deer license in addition to meeting the group contact and harvest authorization requirements. A person hunting with a bow or crossbow cannot shoot a deer on someone else's harvest authorization, or claim a deer shot by another.
- Q. Will the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization(s) included at no cost with the purchase of a deer hunting license need to be specified for use on public or private land?**
- A. Yes. Hunters are required to specify zone, DMU and land type (public or private) for all antlerless deer harvest authorizations, including those that are issued with the purchase of a deer hunting license.
- Q. Do bonus antlerless deer harvest authorizations require the purchaser to indicate public or private land?**
- A. Yes. Hunters are required to specify zone, DMU and land type (public or private) for all antlerless deer harvest authorizations, including those that are issued with the purchase of a deer hunting license.
- Q. If a person buys an antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for use on private land, is that person restricted to only shooting a deer that is actually on private land or is he/she able to shoot a deer that is on public land so long as the shot originates on private land?**
- A. Both the hunter and the deer must be located on private property. A hunter with a private land harvest authorization cannot shoot a deer standing on public lands even if he/she is standing on private land.
- Q. If a person plans to hunt on private land AND public land, which antlerless deer harvest authorization is that person required to have?**
- A. A buck harvest authorization is valid statewide on any land type. Only for antlerless deer must hunters specify land type when obtaining all antlerless deer harvest authorizations. If a hunter wants to hunt both public and private land within a given DMU for antlerless deer, this could be accomplished by selecting one land type (public or private) for the Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization that is included with a deer license, and selecting the other type (public or private) for a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization (if bonus harvest authorizations of that land type are available in that DMU). If the DMU offers more than one Farmland (Zone 2) antlerless deer harvest authorization with each license,

those harvest authorizations could be divided among public and private lands. Buck harvest authorizations are valid statewide in any zone and unit on both public and private lands.

Q. If a hunter possesses an antlerless deer harvest authorization for use on private lands, can that hunter access any private lands within the unit?

A. No. Trespassing laws exist and hunters need landowner permission prior to entering private land. There are lands enrolled under open Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law and Voluntary Public Access programs that allow public hunting access, but these lands are considered public lands for purposes of antlerless deer harvest authorizations validity. Hunters must possess an antlerless deer harvest authorization for public lands to harvest antlerless deer on these “open” lands.

Q. If a hunter purchases a bonus antlerless deer harvest authorization for hunting public lands, can that person switch it to a private lands harvest authorization after the purchase?

A. Yes. A hunter may switch land types as long as there are antlerless deer harvest authorizations available for the desired zone, DMU, and land type, and does so before the deer season is open. That hunter would also have to pay a \$2 processing fee if picking up the harvest authorization at a Go Wild license agent. Once the exchange has been approved and posted to their Go Wild account by the department, customers may print the harvest authorizations themselves at home for no charge.

Q. Are there more antlerless deer harvest authorizations available for private land than public land?

A. This varies throughout the state and is based on CDAC recommendations for antlerless deer harvest and the distribution of private and public land throughout each unit.

Q. If a hunter with an antlerless deer harvest authorization valid for private lands shoots a deer on private land and the deer runs onto public land but does not die, may the hunter shoot that deer when found and if so, what type of harvest authorization is required, public or private lands?

A. If the deer is still alive when the hunter finds it, and if the hunter (or a member of the hunting party, if applicable) does not have a valid antlerless deer harvest authorization, the hunter should contact the local warden for advice on how to proceed. It is not legal to hunt and/or shoot a deer in a DMU or on a land-type for which a hunter does not have a valid harvest authorization, even if they first wounded that same deer in the DMU or on the land type for which their antlerless deer harvest authorization was valid. To allow this would be to allow anyone to hunt in the wrong area and simply claim that he/she wounded the deer earlier in the area in which his/her harvest authorization was valid. If the deer is already dead when the hunter finds it in an adjacent DMU or property type, it would be legal and the hunter must register the deer for the area where the deer was originally shot. This is no different than what could have happened in the past when someone was hunting near the boundary between two DMUs.

Q. If hunting on private land that is open to public hunting because of an agricultural damage deer shooting permit, which land type must be designated on the antlerless deer harvest authorization, public or private?

A. Lands for which deer damage permits have been issued are still treated as private lands, and would require a designation of private lands on the antlerless deer harvest authorization. However, if they are

also enrolled as open to public hunting under Managed Forest Law or Forest Crop Law, they would require a public lands designation on the harvest authorization.

Q. For people enrolled in open Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law, or Voluntary Public Access programs and hunting their own land, should their antlerless deer harvest authorization be designated for use on public or private lands?

- A. If the landowner is hunting part of the property is enrolled in Managed Forest Law, Forest Crop Law or Voluntary Public Access and is open to public hunting, the landowner will need a public lands antlerless deer harvest authorization. If the property is enrolled in one of these programs but is closed to public hunting, or if the landowner plans to hunt on a part of the property that is not enrolled in one of these programs, the landowner will need a private land designation on their antlerless deer harvest authorization.

Q. Where can I find more information on land open to the public for hunting?

- A. Hunters can consult several resources to help them determine where to hunt, including the [Public Access Lands Atlas](#), the listing of [Voluntary Public Access](#) lands and the [Managed Forest Law lands map](#).

[TOP](#)

HARVESTING DEER

Q. Do I need to attach a carcass tag before field dressing the animal or moving it?

- A. No. Hunters are not required to attach a carcass tag to their deer at any time.

Q. If a carcass tag is not attached to the animal, how will a conservation warden know if it was legally harvested?

- A. Wardens have the ability to electronically look up your GoWild account and determine what hunting licenses, deer harvest authorizations, or other authorizations you have.

[TOP](#)

HARVEST REGISTRATION

Q. Will electronic registration (GameReg) continue to be available to all deer hunters?

- A. Yes. Deer registration is required, and all deer registration is completed electronically. Hunters can register deer harvests by phone, mobile device or computer with Internet access, or in person at participating registration stations. Tip: completing a deer registration online is much faster than deer registration by telephone.

Q. Where can I find the unique harvest authorization number required to begin the registration process?

- A. Access the unique harvest authorization number from the paper copy of the harvest authorization, a Go Wild PDF image of the harvest authorization saved to your electronic device or the My GameReg section of your Go Wild account.

Q. How long will a hunter have after harvesting a deer before that deer must be registered?

- A. All deer must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after the animal is recovered.

Q. Does this registration deadline apply to all deer harvested during the deer seasons?

- A. Yes. Any deer harvested must be registered by 5 p.m. the day after it was harvested.

Q. With the implementation of electronic harvest registration, will the registration requirements for harvested deer change?

- A. No. All deer harvested during all deer hunting seasons must be registered before being transported from the DMU of harvest or an adjacent DMU. Some traditional in-person registration stations will still be open to provide electronic registration services; however, hunters are not required to register their harvest in person.

Q. Where can I learn more about GameReg?

- A. Visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword “electronic registration,” for more information and a comprehensive e-registration FAQ.

[TOP](#)

TRANSPORTATION OF DEER

Q. What are the requirement for possessing and transporting someone else’s deer?

- A. A person may not possess another hunter’s deer while afield, even if the deer is registered, without the harvest authorization holder being present. However, anyone can possess and transport another person’s registered deer on a public highway for purposes of transportation to, and possession at, a dwelling or a business without the harvest authorization holder being present. A dwelling includes both permanent and temporary residences, and would include hunting cabins and camp sites. This allows a person to leave their registered deer at a hunting camp, meat processor or someone else’s residence when they are not present.

Q. Does that mean it is okay to leave my registered deer hanging in my hunting camp and go home?

- A. Yes. Your registered deer can be left at any cabin or campsite and be possessed, in your absence, by someone who is not hunting. This person can also transport the deer on public highways to another residence, meat processor, etc.

Q. What about assisting with field dressing and removing a deer from the field?

- A. So long as you are accompanied by the harvest authorization holder, the normal activities associated with field dressing, dragging, and transporting a deer from the field remain lawful for assistants.

Q. Does that mean that if someone is using an ATV/UTV either on their land or if they are disabled, they cannot transport any deer except for their own deer on the ATV/UTV?

- A. The harvest authorization holder must continue to accompany the deer when it is being transported (moved), even after the deer has been registered, except when being transported on a public roadway. They do not need to be in or on the same vehicle and could be following in another vehicle, ATV or UTV, as long as they are traveling together.

[TOP](#)